

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 03947 082258Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 DLOS-09 L-03 CG-00
DOTE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /052 W
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R 082116Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO USDA/FAS/WASHDC
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UNCLAS LIMA 3947

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJ: PERUVIAN FISH SITUATION

REF: TEL LIMA 3126

TOFAS : 50

1. THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES ANNOUNCED ON MAY 4 THAT EFFECTIVE MAY 12, TWENTY BOATS WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO CATCH ANCHOVIES FROM 17 DEGREES LATITUDE SOUTH TO THE CHILEAN BORDER. THIS ACTION IS DUE IN PART TO THE REPORTED SUCCESS OF FISHING ACTIVITIES BY CHILEANS. IT IS INTERPRETED HERE AS AN EXPLORATORY VENTURE SINCE NUMBER OF BOATS AUTHORIZED IS VERY SMALL. EVENTUAL LEVEL OF FISHING WILL DEPEND UPON RESULTS OF THIS SMALL SCALE ACTIVITY.

2. SUCCESS OF FISHING ACTIVITY REPORTED REFTTEL QUITE UNFAVORABLE. OVER 40,000 MT CAUGHT IN THE FIRST WEEK OF OPERATION, BUT CATCH REPORTED TO INCLUDE LARGE PERCENTAGE ANCHOVIES OF WHICH AT LEAST 50 PERCENT WERE LESS THAN 12 CM LENGTH CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL FOR EXPLOITATION. ONLY 15,000 MT CAUGHT IN SECOND WEEK. THEREFORE 30 OF THESE BOATS HAVE RETURNED TO SHORE. THIS LEAVES A TOTAL OF 30 BOATS FISHING FOR OTHER SPECIES AND 20 BOATS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN FISHING FOR ANCHOVIES ON MAY 12.

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